

REMARKS

Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the careful consideration given the present application. The application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action, and the following remarks are presented for the Examiner's consideration.

Claim 30 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,058,290 to Katagiri (hereinafter "Katagiri"). Claim 30 has been further amended to better distinguish from the prior art. For the following reasons, the rejection has been rendered moot by the amendment.

Regarding amended claim 30, Applicant again submits that Katagiri does not teach "inputting a character sequence that is *included in the original message*, the character sequence being designated by a user" and "retrieving from the storage device the *original message that contains the character sequence* designated in the step of inputting," as required. In the Office Action, the Examiner states that "Katagiri suggests that adding a *predetermined* code word (a predetermined signal) to a head of each data piece representing the designated message" (page 3, emphasis added). Applicant agrees. By contrast, the character sequence required by claim 30 is not *predetermined*, as with the *predetermined* code word or signal of Katagiri. Rather, amended claim 30 requires that the character sequence is *designated by a user during the step of inputting*. Further, Katagiri does not disclose retrieving messages that are the *original* messages containing the designated character sequences, as required by claim 30. By contrast, Katagiri teaches *modifying* the messages to add a code word as a read-inhibition code word that was not present in the *original* message as required by amended claim 30. Therefore, since every limitation of claim 30 is not taught by the reference, claim 30 is not anticipated by Katagiri.

Claims 25 and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,426,424 to Vanden Heuvel (hereinafter "Vanden Heuvel") in view of Katagiri.

Claims 27 and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Vanden Heuvel in view of Katagiri and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,239,679 to Murai.

In each of these rejections the Examiner relies upon Katagiri for teaching “erasing concerned messages collectively, the concerned messages being those of the stored messages that contain the *designated* character sequences” (claim 25). Claim 25 also requires the step of “*designating* character sequences.” As explained above with regard to claim 30, Katagiri teaches deleting messages that include a *predetermined* read inhibition code word. Since the code word or signal of Katagiri is *predetermined*, its teachings cannot be applied to a character sequence which has been chosen in the step of “designating character sequences.” Further, Katagiri teaches only using a *predetermined* read- inhibition code word, and in no way suggests modifying its teachings so that the read inhibition code word is designated in a step of “designating character sequences” as required by the instant claim 25.

Further, regarding amended claim 25, neither Katagiri, Vanden Heuvel nor Murai teaches or suggests “designating character sequences which are included in the *original* messages,” as required. As explained above with regard to claim 30, Katagiri teaches *adding* a code word to the message, resulting in a *modified* message containing a code word, not being contained in the *original* (unmodified) message as in amended claim 25.

Thus, for the aforementioned reasons, Katagiri does not teach or suggest the limitation of claim 25 for which the Examiner has relied upon it for. Claims 26–28 depend from claim 25. Therefore, even if the teachings of Katagiri were combined with the other references cited in each of the rejections, every limitation of claims would not be taught or suggested by the combination.

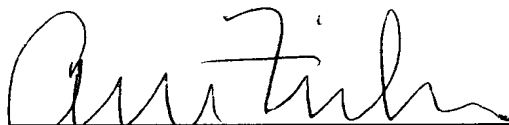
In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is determined that the

application is not in a condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to initiate a telephone interview with the undersigned attorney to expedite prosecution of the present application.

If there are any additional fees resulting from this communication, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 16-0820, our Order No. .

Respectfully submitted,

PEARNE & GORDON LLP

By: 
Aaron A. Fishman – Reg. No. 44,682

1801 East 9th Street
Suite 1200
Cleveland, Ohio 44114-3108
(216) 579-1700

Date: January 17, 2006